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Wednesday, September 4, 2019 metro.us | t: MetroPh[i]l[a] f: MetroPh[i]l[a]

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Radio host Chris Thile on new season of 'Live From Here.' 11

GETTY IMAGES

'LATE NIGHT SNACKS'

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Parity reigning supreme on women's side of US Open. 16

SEPTA $CAM

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8 THINGS TO KNOW

Walmart to end sales of ammunition for handguns, assault-style weapons

REUTERS

CEO to write Congress urging stronger background checks.

Walmart Inc. said on Tuesday it would discontinue sales of ammunition for handguns and some assault-style rifles in stores across the United States, in response to the recent mass shootings in Texas and Ohio.

The largest U.S. arms retailer, which has been under pressure to change its policies on gun sales, also said it would discontinue handgun sales in Alaska, the only state where it still sells these guns.

Walmart has already ended sales of assault rifles and raised the minimum age for gun purchases to 21. The latest move will leave it focused on weapons for hunting, including deer rifles, shotguns and related ammunition.

The company will stop selling all handgun ammunition and some short-barrel rifle ammunition, such as the .223 caliber and 5.56 caliber after clearing current stock. While short-barrel ammunition is commonly used in some hunting rifles for small animals such as prairie dogs, they can also be used in military-style weapons with high-capacity magazines.

The retailer said it took the action following the death of 22 people in a mass shooting in a Walmart store in Texas as well as deadly shootings in Ohio and Saturday's incident in Midland and Odessa, Texas.

Just last month, the company said it would not change its policy on selling firearms even as it took down signs and playable demos of violent video games.

"As a company, we experienced two horrific events in one week, and we will never be the same," Chief Executive Officer Doug McMillon said in a letter to Walmart's associates.

The company added that its latest actions would reduce its market share of ammunition from around 20 percent to a range of about 6 percent to 9 percent, and would trend toward the lower end of that range over time.

McMillon said he would send letters to the White House and the Congressional leadership, urging the government to strengthen background checks and to remove weapons from those who could pose an imminent danger.

"These horrific events occur and then the spotlight fades ... Given our decades of experience selling firearms, we are also offering to serve as a resource in the national debate on responsible gun sales," he said. REUTERS

Black Ops Junior Sniper Rifle is one of the guns available for purchase at Walmart. GETTY IMAGES

Serena flies into semifinal, claims 100th US Open win

2 Serena Williams claimed her 100th win at the U.S. Open in style on Tuesday, dismantling her quarterfinal opponent Wang Qiang 6-1 6-0 in a blistering 44-minute performance that ended any questions over a twisted ankle from the previous round. "I never thought that I would get to 100," Williams said after the match, reflecting on the two decades she's spent playing at Flushing Meadows. "It's so special. I never want to let it go." The 37-year-old American was dominant from the start, firing off 25 winners, compared to zero from 18th-seed Wang, and winning 90 percent of her first serve points. During her fourth-round match on Sunday, Williams slipped and fell while running to the net and twisted her right ankle but said on Tuesday she was feeling "great." Williams faces fifth-seed Elina Svitolina in the semifinals. REUTERS

Pentagon diverts $3.6B from military projects to build wall

3 More than 120 U.S. military construction projects will be adversely affected as the Pentagon prepares to use $3.6 billion to help build or enhance 175 miles of the border wall with Mexico, U.S. officials said on Tuesday. Earlier this year, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in a bid to fund his promised wall at the U.S.-Mexico border. The emergency declaration allows the Trump administration to use money from the military construction budget and the Pentagon has said it could use $3.6 billion from the budget. On Tuesday, Pentagon officials said 127 would be affected and the first $1.8 billion would come from deferred military construction projects outside the United States. The second tranche would come from deferred military projects inside the United States, the officials said. REUTERS

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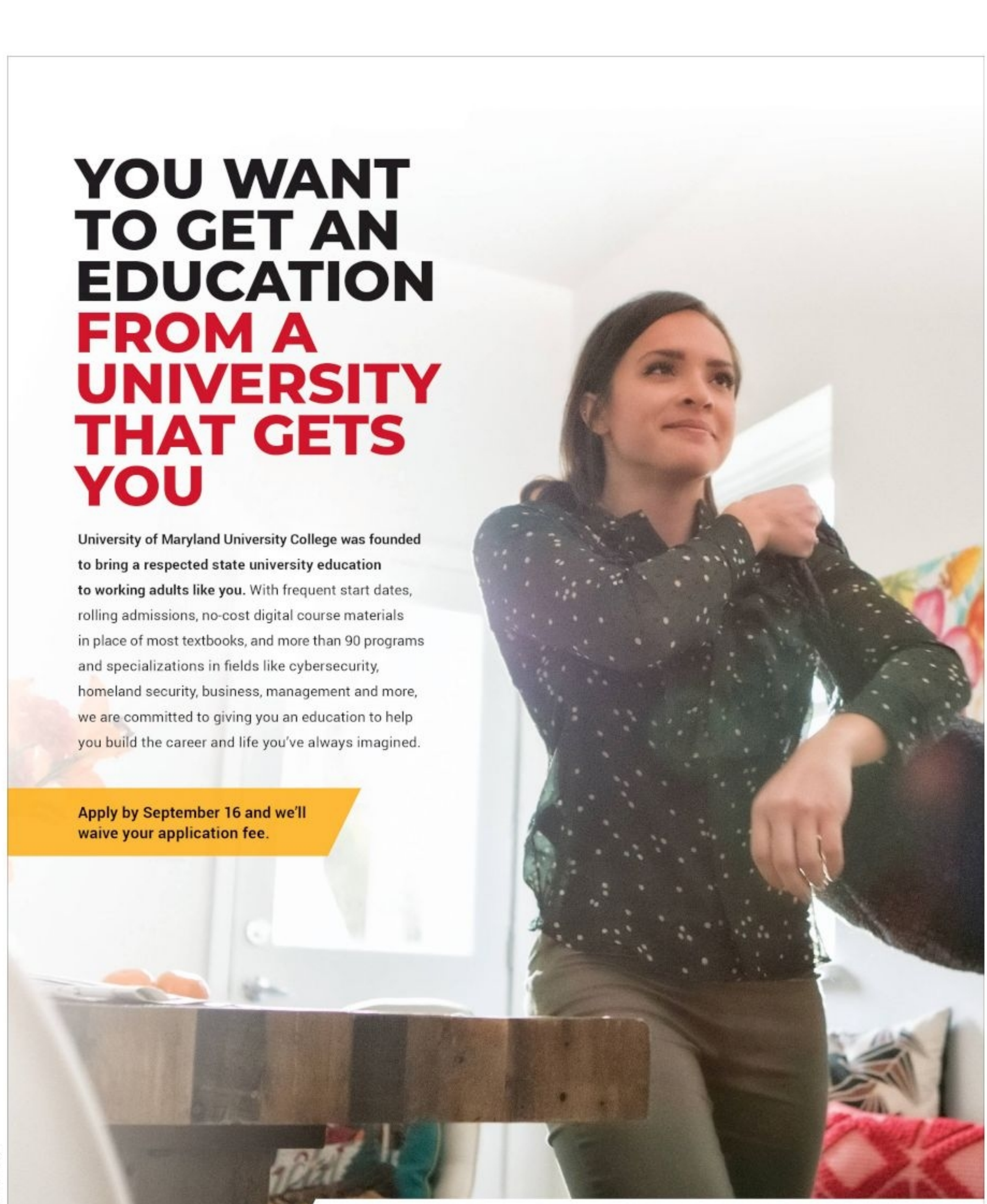

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SEPTA buses in Philadelphia.

GETTY IMAGES

A new kind of fare evasion takes root in Philadelphia

There's a new scam in town that's costing SEPTA a lot of money.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

SEPTA is now susceptible to a new kind of fare evasion since its iconic tokens disappeared.

Scammers have been using Key Cards to give cash-paying buyers discounts on the Broad Street Line and the El, the Inquirer reported.

Rich Burnfield, deputy general manager and treasurer, told the Inquirer that SEPTA does not track or estimate revenue loss from fare evasion.

It was reported that once cashiers spot someone evading fare, they call the police, but lately, it's been happening a lot more than usual.

When it comes to the Key Card, riders pay $2 per ride, but riders who are paying with cash are charged $2.50. The Inquirer reported that a person accepts $2 cash to swipe a person through, and then the cash-paying traveler gets a $0.50 discount on the ride.

Key Cards have certain restrictions, so someone cannot use the same card within a specific time period after a trip is purchased. Scammers have multiple cards, which allows them to continue swiping riders through.

These hustlers might not fit your image of a criminal. It was reported that elderly citizens have taken money to swipe people in since they ride for free. Students have also been known the abuse the privileges.

These hustlers selling cheaper fares have become very pushy, in some case not giving riders an option other than to pay up. Of course, some of them move away if asked.

Transit Police Chief Thomas J. Nestel III told the Inquirer that SEPTA has increased enforcement on the subways. It was also reported that the fine is $25 for fare jumpers, and selling these discounted trips is classified as a misdemeanor charge, and individuals can be fined $500 for a first offense.

Not only is SEPTA struggling with fare evasion, but reports show ridership is down as well.

Key Card readers for fare payment are located on the platform of SEPTA's Lanhorne commuter rail station in the Philadelphia suburbs.

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Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. appears in New York State Criminal Court in Manhattan. REUTERS IMAGES

Actor Cuba Gooding Jr gets October court date in groping case

Prosecutors needed time to gather more video evidence.

Judge Herbert Moses of the Manhattan Supreme Court set an Oct. 10 trial date on Tuesday for the actor Cuba Gooding Jr., who was charged with groping a woman at a Manhattan bar in June.

Gooding, dressed in a gray suit and tie, appeared calm during a brief appearance at the court. His trial had previously been scheduled to begin Tuesday, but prosecutors said they needed more time to gather video evidence and turn it over to Gooding's lawyers.

His lawyer, Mark Heller, told reporters after the hearing that he believed prosecutors were "trying to procrastinate" because Gooding's accuser was not cooperating with them.

Justin Henry, a spokesman for the prosecutors, declined to comment on that claim.

"Cuba is extremely confident that this case will be dismissed," Heller said. "Cuba takes the position, and we do as well, that he is someone that should never have been prosecuted."

Gooding, 51, was charged with one misdemeanor count of forcible touching after an unidentified woman said the actor had touched her breasts. He has denied the allegation.

The actor, who is divorced, is one of dozens of men in politics, entertainment, sports and the business world who have been accused of sexual misconduct since allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein triggered the #MeToo movement.

Weinstein is to stand trial in New York later this year on charges of rape and forced oral sex involving two women. He has denied any non-consensual sex.

> **"Cuba takes the position, and we do as well, that he is someone that should never have been prosecuted."**
> Mark Heller, Gooding Jr.'s lawyer

Gooding won a supporting actor Oscar in 1997 for "Jerry Maguire" and had roles in "A Few Good Men," "The Butler" and the television miniseries "The People v. O.J. Simpson." REUTERS

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Dorian's devastation to Bahamas revealed as hurricane reaches US

An aerial photo shows the aftermath of the Hurricane Dorian damage over an unspecified location in the Bahamas. REUTERS

Hurricane Dorian carved a path of destruction through the Bahamas and relief officials on Tuesday were preparing for a humanitarian crisis after one of the most powerful storms ever to hit the islands killed at least five people, with the scale of the disaster as yet unknown.

Aerial video recorded over the Bahamas' Great Abaco Island showed mile upon mile of flooded neighborhoods, pulverized buildings, upturned boats and shipping containers scattered like Lego toys. Many buildings that had not been flattened had walls or roofs partly ripped away.

While its winds had diminished to a Category 2 storm, Dorian expanded in size and picked up speed on Tuesday. Forecasters said it would come "dangerously close" in the next 36 hours to Florida's east coast, where more than a million people have been ordered evacuated.

> **"We have not been able to assess the damages on Grand Bahama Island just yet. We expect it to be very devastating and the damage to be extreme."**
>
> Theo Neilly, Bahamian consul general in Washington

In the Freeport area of Grand Bahama island, people on jet skis and boats tried to rescue hundreds of people whose homes had flooded on the low-lying island, a CNN correspondent said.

Tropical-storm-force winds hampered the efforts, flipping over some of the jet skis. The correspondent said he had spoken to a man whose wife had died of hypothermia after being trapped in their flooded home for hours and others who said they had watched people swept away by the storm surge.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center said in a 5 p.m. ET advisory that Dorian had sustained winds of 110 miles per hour and was moving northwest at 5 mph, as it churned about 105 miles east of Vero Beach, Florida.

"Dorian is expected to remain a powerful hurricane during the next couple of days," the NHS said.

EXTREME DAMAGE

The exact toll of the devastation in the Bahamas will not be clear until the storm completely passes and rescue crews can get on the ground. Dorian has battered the Bahamas for the past three days.

"We have not been able to assess the damages on Grand Bahama Island just yet. We expect it to be very devastating and the damage to be extreme," said Theo Neilly, the Bahamian consul general in Washington.

He added that the sea surge from the storm was high and people were still trapped in their homes and attics.

Speaking to CNN, Iram Lewis, a member of Parliament, said the death toll would climb.

"It is safe to say, unfortunately, that number will go up," Lewis said of the death toll, and the destruction "is just unbelievable."

As many as 13,000 homes in the Bahamas may have been destroyed or severely damaged, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said.

The Abaco Islands in the northern Bahamas may require food for 14,500 people and Grand Bahama for 45,700 people, the U.N. World Food Programme said in a statement. The preliminary estimates were based on an assessment by representatives from Caribbean countries, the WFP and other organizations.

The U.S. military has been authorized to provide logistics, health and engineering support to the Bahamas for up for 14 days if needed, General Terrence O'Shaughnessy, the head of U.S. Northern Command, told reporters on Tuesday. REUTERS

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Democrats slam Pence for staying at Trump hotel in Ireland

Taxpayer money into Trump's pockets, one congressman noted.

U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence and his wife Karen meet with President of Ireland Michael D.Higgins and his wife Sabina Higgins at Aras an Uachtarain in Dublin, Ireland. REUTERS

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence drew fire from Democrats on Tuesday when he met with Irish leaders in the capital Dublin but stayed at a hotel owned by President Donald Trump almost 180 miles away at his boss's urging.

Pence flew to Dublin on Tuesday after spending the night at the Trump International Golf Club in Doonbeg on the west coast of Ireland. The hotel also hosted the Trump family during a brief trip to Ireland by the president in June.

Asked if Trump had suggested that Pence stay at the property, the vice president's chief of staff, Marc Short, told journalists, "I think that it was a suggestion."

"It's like when we went through the trip, it's like, 'Well, he's going to Doonbeg because that is where his family is from.' It's like, 'Oh, you should stay at my place,'" Short said. "It wasn't like a 'you must.' It wasn't like a 'you have to.'"

California Democratic Congressman Ted Lieu accused Pence on Twitter of "funneling taxpayer money" to Trump by staying at the hotel. "You took an oath to the Constitution, not to @realDonaldTrump," Lieu said.

The Democratic National Committee also chimed in, saying on its DNC War Room Twitter feed that Pence's choice of hotel meant "your tax dollars: making the Trump family richer."

Pence defended the decision, pointing to family ties and saying the hotel stay was vetted in advance.

"I understand political attacks by Democrats but if you have the chance to get to Doonbeg you'll find that it is a fairly small place," he told reporters of the one-street village that has a population of just 200 people.

"We checked it with the State Department, they approved us staying there and I was pleased to have the opportunity to return to that family hometown and be able to stay there. ... It was important to me, before our original trip plan, to at least spend one night in Doonbeg."

GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S ROOTS

Pence's stay was paid for by U.S. taxpayers, Short said, but the vice president personally paid for his sister and mother who came with him. Pence's great-grandmother was from Doonbeg.

Trump has retained ownership of his hotels, golf courses and other businesses, but he gave control of the businesses to his sons shortly before he took office in January 2017.

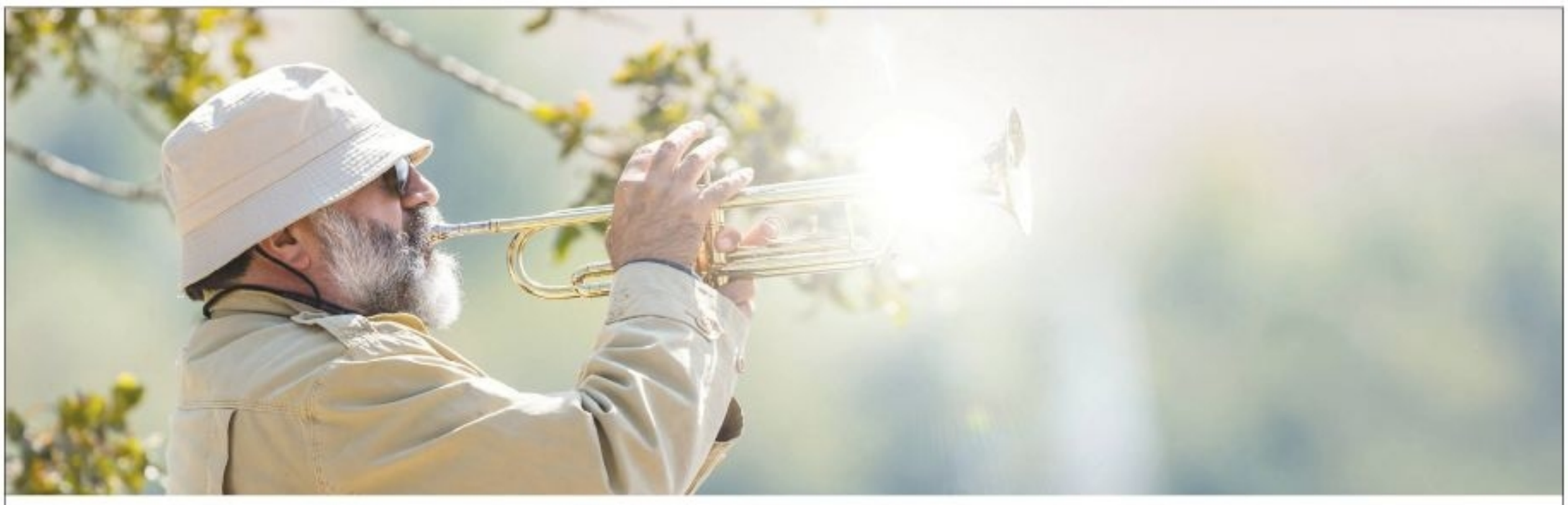
Former government ethics officials and watchdog groups say Trump has failed to put safeguards in place to ensure that he does not directly profit from his actions as president.

Short said the original plan had been for Pence to hold meetings in Dublin and to head to Doonbeg afterwards. A last-minute schedule change meant Pence would need to visit Dublin after staying overnight in Ireland, and Trump's property had already been vetted.

Trump on Thursday canceled a visit to Poland in order to monitor Hurricane Dorian, and sent Pence in his stead. He was later criticized for playing golf during that time.

In Dublin, Pence met with Irish President Michael D. Higgins and Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, urging Ireland and the European Union to negotiate "in good faith" with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and reach a Brexit deal that respects U.K. sovereignty.

REUTERS



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Ariana Grande sues Forever 21 for $10 million over look-alike ad

REUTERS

Popular singer Ariana Grande has sued Forever 21 for $10 million, accusing the fashion retailer and a beauty company started by its billionaire founders' daughters of piggybacking off her fame and influence to sell their wares.

In a complaint filed on Monday, Grande said Forever 21 and Riley Rose misappropriated her name, image, likeness and music, including by employing a "strikingly similar" looking model, in a website and social media campaign early this year.

She said this followed the breakdown of talks for a joint marketing campaign because Forever 21 would not pay enough for "a celebrity of Ms. Grande's stature," whose longer-term endorsements generate millions of dollars in fees.

Grande has more than 65 million Twitter followers and 163 million Instagram followers. A core part of the 26-year-old's fan base overlaps Forever 21's and Riley Rose's target markets.

"Forever 21 does not comment on pending litigation as per company policy," the company said in a statement. "That said, while we dispute the allegations, we are huge supporters of Ariana Grande and have worked with her licensing company over the past two years. We are hopeful that we will find a mutually agreeable resolution and can continue to work together in the future."

Riley Rose did not immediately respond on Tuesday to emailed requests for comment.

Founded in 1984, Forever 21 said it recently had 815 stores in 57 countries.

Its founders, Do Won and Jin Sook Chang, are worth $1.5 billion according to Forbes magazine. Their daughters, Linda and Esther Chang, opened the first Riley Rose boutique in 2017.

According to Grande's complaint, Forever 21 and Riley Rose misappropriated at least 30 images and videos, including by using audio and lyrics from her recent No. 1 single "7 Rings," and by using the look-alike model. REUTERS

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READER WRITE-INS:

GRUMBLE? I DON'T THINK SO

This grumble is directed at "the Grumble" for some of the recent grumbles it has published.
Poems?!? Happy stories?!? Celebrations?! These are NOT grumbles.

Dictionary definition of "grumble": "an expression of dissatisfaction, pain or resentment."

When we readers turn to the Grumble page, we want a grumble.
You want to print stories about rainbows, butterflies and unicorns?
Start a new column.

Please give us back our daily fix of irritation, indignation and annoyance.
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Have a nice day!

— **Larry Adel,** *Metro US reader*

ISTOCK

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Concentrate on what you can accomplish instead of laboring over something you cannot. Taking a short trip, attending a meeting or searching for information that will help you advance are favored.

Taurus If something isn't working for you, change it. Look over your options and do what's best for you. Progress will depend on whom you choose to be on your team.

Gemini Refuse to let anyone talk you into doing more than you feel comfortable with. Trust should determine your friendships, and anyone you cannot trust should not be in your circle.

Cancer The less time you spend contemplating what to do next, the more time you will have to put your plans in motion. Romance and home-improvement projects should be priorities.

Leo Participate in events that will expand your outlook and bring you in contact with knowledgeable people. Don't alter your life unless you have done your research. Plan ahead.

Virgo Converse with people who have the information you want. What you find out will affect the way you move forward. An unusual partnership will offer something unexpected.

Libra Play by the rules, make sure your documents are up to date and listen carefully to instructions. If you overreact or underestimate, you will have to backtrack.

Scorpio Express what you would like to see happen. Setting a standard and offering an easy-to-follow guideline will put you in a leadership position. Romance is in the stars.

Sagittarius Look at the big picture, but don't try to take in everything at once. Break down what's important to you and what you can let go of for good. A minimalist attitude will help you move forward.

Capricorn Indulge in whatever makes you happy. You have to reward yourself once in a while if you want to maintain balance and a healthy attitude. Romance and commitment are favored.

Aquarius Stop, assess the situation and focus on where your time will make the most difference. Setting priorities will help you avoid sensitive issues that could lead to emotional fallout.

Pisces Be realistic and avoid making a miscalculation that will put a dent in your bank account or hinder your plans. Relationships should be handled carefully, and romance will enhance your personal life. **EUGENIA LAST**

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LIFESTYLE

Chris Thile on finding a home on the airwaves with 'Live From Here'

We spoke with the musician and radio host ahead of the show's premiere this Saturday.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

Talking to musician Chris Thile is infectious, no matter the circumstance. Hearing his general enthusiasm for all of the intricate wonders that make this world beautiful can really put you in an empowering mood to pay things forward with a big genuine smile on your face. While I spoke with him over the phone as he was waiting to board a plane, all of us have the good fortune to listen to him as the host of the musical variety show "Live From Here" on NPR or wherever you get your podcasts. The mandolin prodigy who built his name with such beloved bands as Nickel Creek and The Punch Brothers, just to name a couple, will be returning as host for his third year this Saturday at the show's new permanent home at Town Hall in New York City.

Asking Thile about his current comfort level with the title of "master of ceremonies" on a widely syndicated radio show, he reflects on how strange it is to have an office to work out of given his winding journey through show business.

"For the first time in my life, I go to this space and work in this space," says Thile. "I've been so counterculture for so long I'm really enjoying having that routine. All human beings seek routine. I've been cobbling one together since I started doing this professionally once I left my parents' home. There's just precious little in the way of reliable routine for a professional musician and I'm really relishing the opportunity to mentally clock in and work on my craft."

Thile had originally taken over as host of Garrison Keillor's long-running show "A Prairie Home Companion" in 2016 and had eventually changed its name to "Live From Here." While the focus of the show is mostly on music, it does maintain some of the folksy bones of its predecessor with guests from the literary world, TV and film, readings from plays, radio-hour style stories and skits, and stand-up comedy. Keeping the machine rolling was a tough transition, according to Thile. But at the start of a new season, he feels as though hosting and putting together the show have become some of the most rewarding aspects of his life.

"This is the first time where the start of the season just feels like a part of life," he explains. "It feels like, 'It's September, here we go!' The big news for us is that we're based in New York now and that comes with a lot of exciting possibilities just in terms of the amount of people who pass through our city. It feels like New York is one of America's biggest windows to the world and also one of the biggest windows to America. I love that feeling. It's starting to bear fruit as far as lining up the guests for the first month of shows."

The show itself has put so many things into perspective for the musician. Afterall, as the man behind the microphone keeping the show rolling, he has had to adopt the graces of an airtight MC. But with curating a full night of entertainment from all sides of the aisle, and performing within the backing band behind weekly guests in most cases, he has learned how to step aside and consider the beauty behind the curation of each episode while it is happening just feet away from him onstage.

"I was careful right from the start to just make sure that I was still a musician first. You want to play to your strengths and I don't feel like this golden-voiced child of the radio. It's a little reedy and higher than one would expect of a radio host," says Thile with a laugh. "But I've relished the opportunity to flex some curatorial muscles. I strongly believe that we'll be better as a species if we remember to also observe our collective beauty and not our failures and our faults. We do have to observe our faults and our failures in order to be better. But we're just not going to have any fuel left in the tank to proactively work on those failures unless we believe in our beauty, goodness and potential for improvement as evidenced by real greatness that's around us."

From Del McCourry to Broken Social Scene, the show has run the gamut of musical acts. But some of the guests that have truly left the host inspired have been those with whom he shares less of a commonality.

"During my first season of the show," remembers Thile, "we had author George Saunders on the show. I was just mesmerized by his contribution to that show. I had always been a huge fan but to rub shoulders with somebody operating at that high a level was really inspiring. Similarly, someone like Aparna Nancherla this last season, and also the first season, delivered such a beautifully constructed set of comedy. You really feel the art in it. That's really inspiring to me. There are lessons to be learned around every corner."

Some of this month's guests have been already announced for the kickoff this new season of "Live From Here," with this Saturday's show hosting Ezra Koenig of Vampire Weekend, actor Jake Gyllenhaal, Mexican singer Natalia LaFourcade, and many more. Thile is excited to collaborate with Koenig, one of his current music heroes.

"Ezra Koenig from Vampire Weekend I think is one of our great lyricists working currently. What's fun about [the show] is he's going to use our band. So, we're going to get to be Vampire Weekend for the day. So, that's exciting!"

Make sure to tune into "Live From Here" with Chris Thile this Saturday, Sept. 7, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the show's various public radio station homes or on the web at livefromhere.org.

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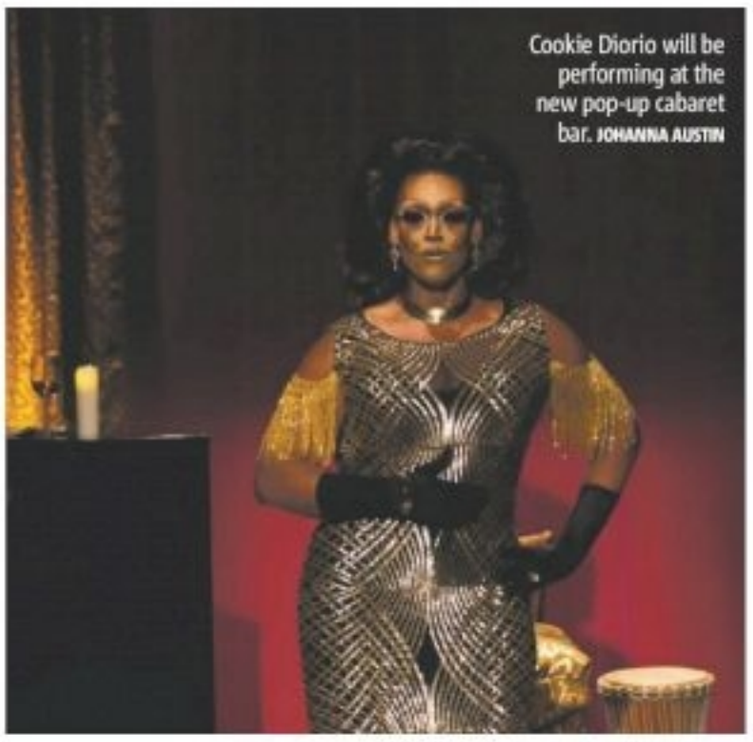
It's never too late for *cabaret*

Philly's new pop-up cabaret experience, Late Night Snacks, opens this weekend.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

"Late Night Snacks" opens this weekend. BEN MACMASTER



Cookie Diorio will be performing at the new pop-up cabaret bar. JOHANNA AUSTIN

With Fringe Festival around the corner and 019 in the horizons, there is one late-night spot opening up that will surely keep all of the eclectic fun going.

The Bearded Ladies have teamed up with Opera Philadelphia, FringeArts, Vox Populi, Hidden City Philadelphia, Passyunk Avenue Revitalization Corporation and the Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs to present a new pop-up cabaret experience: Late Night Snacks. According to the release, this new hot spot will feature a unique roster of artists from both the region and around the world, including the likes of opera star Stephanie Blythe, Justin Vivian Bond, Adrienne Truscott, Martha Graham Cracker and more.

Philadelphians will love the atmosphere of this new one-of-a-kind nighttime arts oasis. Late Night Snacks is set up in a converted auto body shop on Percy Street, and The Bearded Ladies linked up with installation designer Machine Dazzle to bring the chic speakeasy-style to life for the cabaret bar. Late Night Snacks will also feature cocktails hand-crafted by bartenders from Sassafrass and the iconic Old City venue The Tin Angel, as well as the Opera Philadelphia Ale (OPA) by Flying Fish.

The Bearded Ladies wanted this colorful experience to be open for all, therefore, there will be pay-what-you-can ticket options available every night to all performances of Late Night Snacks.

The lineup for Late Night Snacks is available online, but a few highlighted performers include Mx Justin Vivian Bond with Jenn Kidwell, hosted by John Jarboe; Cherdonna Shinatra and Glitter & Garbage, hosted by Adrienne Truscott; Miguel Gutierrez's SADONNA and the moon baby, hosted by Anthony Martinez-Briggs; A Chorus Whine: Opera Chorus Tells All, hosted by Cookie Diorio with an appearance

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Head to Late Night Snacks this month until Sept. 29.
JOHANNA AUSTIN

by Stephanie Blythe as Blythely Oratonio; Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers and Philadelphia Women's Slavic Ensemble, hosted by John Jarboe; and Liz Filios with Eric Jaffe and Friends, hosted by John Jarboe.

Late Night Snacks will also showcase a few family-friendly cabarets as well where tickets are only $10 and kids get in for free. Ticket prices for other shows range from $10 to $45 depending on the performance and whatever pay-what-you-can option you choose.

Each performance is meant to showcase the extreme talent and fun energy the City of Brotherly Love exudes itself. There is truly no better way to spend the late-night hours than singing and dancing in the energetic colorful atmosphere and underneath the moonlight. Every show will be different and utterly unique, so The Bearded Ladies encourage guests to come and go as you please.

Late Night Snacks (1316 S. Percy St.) will be open Tuesday through Sundays from Sept. 7 to Sept. 29. To learn more information and to purchase tickets, visit fringearts.com.

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Cocktails for a cause

Revivalist Gin teamed up with four hot spots around the city for Hunger Action Month. PROVIDED

Revivalist Spirits teamed up with four Philly hot spots to benefit Philabundance.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Most Philadelphians love their cocktails, especially with gin, and now every libation lover can sip on a refreshing concoction while helping a good cause. Throughout the month of September, look for pay-what-you-wish gin cocktails from Revivalist Spirits in select BYO hot spots around the City of Brotherly Love.

Revivalist teamed up with Elwood in Fishtown, Branzino in Rittenhouse, On Point Bistro in Point Breeze and Chlöe in Old City to feature the unique gin pours throughout every weekend this month, and the revenue from the pay-what-you-wish cocktails will directly benefit Philabundance during Hunger Action Month.

"We're very excited for the opportunity to not only partner with four really impressive restaurants in Philadelphia, but also to do so while helping to raise money for Philadelphians in need," said Revivalist Spirits National Sales Director Scott Avellino in a release.

Revivalist will be showcasing their popular Botanical Gin collection in two specialty compositions designed by 13th Street Cocktails. The "Fire & Ice" basil gimlet cocktail is perfect for spice lovers and will feature Revivalist's Dragon Dance Jalapeno Gin, lime cordial and basil leaves. If your tastebuds call for something a little sweeter, try sipping on their "Autumn Apple Spice" cocktail, made with Revivalist's Harvest Expression Gin, ginger beer and apple cider.

"We've been working with 13th Street Cocktails to develop these delicious gin drinks, and I think people will be really impressed when they taste what we have to offer," said President and CEO of Revivalist Spirits, Don Avellino in a release. "We're looking forward to these weekends in September, and being able to do something to benefit Hunger Action Month makes these collaborations even better."

Hunger Action Month is a nationwide movement aimed to take action on the hunger crisis in America, and with Philabundance being Delaware Valley's largest hunger-relief organization, these cocktails could not be poured at a better time.

Both cocktails will be available at Elwood (1007 Frankford Ave) from Sept. 6-7, Branzino (261 S. 17th St.) from Sept. 13-14, On Point Bistro (1200 Point Breeze Ave.) from Sept. 20-21 and Chlöe (232 Arch St.) from Sept. 27-28.

The flavorful cocktails will only be available this month at the select spots, and both concoctions will be offered to thirsty Philadelphians for a pay-what-you-wish cost. To learn more about the cocktails and Revivalist Spirits, visit 13thstreet-cocktails.com and revivalistspirits.com; to learn more about Philabundance, visit philabundance.org.

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NFL player prop bets: Most receptions

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

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There are plenty of intriguing player prop bets at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** ahead of the start of the 2019 NFL season, which kicks off tomorrow night in Chicago. One of these player props has an Eagles star in the top 10 in terms of odds, as tight end Zach Ertz is +2000 to lead the league in receptions this year.

Those are some juicy odds on a player that finished second in most receptions last season with 116 (New Orleans receiver Michael Thomas finished first with 125 grabs).

Ertz is firmly in the prime of his career at age 28 and recent seasons suggest that there is still room for him to improve on those numbers. Here are Ertz's reception totals in the past five seasons.

GETTY IMAGES

2014: 58
2015: 75
2016: 78
2017: 74
2018: 116

The jump from 74 catches in 2017 to 116 last year is remarkable, and leads one to wonder if Ertz is due for yet another bump up if Carson Wentz can stay healthy for the entire season.

Here are the top 10 odds:

DeAndre Hopkins +900
Julio Jones +900
Michael Thomas +900
Davante Adams +1200
JuJu Smith-Schuster +1200
Antonio Brown +2000
Stefon Diggs +2000
Zach Ertz +2000
Travis Kelce +2000
Christian McCaffrey +2000

Hopkins and Jones usually factor into the top 10 in grabs but the fear there is that neither of their teams are going to be any good.

The Texans have the most rugged schedule in the league, and the Falcons also look to be headed in the wrong direction.

Eight of the 10 players that led the league in catches last year were players on teams with a winning record.

The play: $10 on Zach Ertz to lead NFL in catches

TWEET OF THE DAY

Warren Sharp
@SharpFootball

Mike Zimmer is pounding the table that a run-first philosophy isn't outdated. The top 5 most pass-heavy teams on first half early downs the last 3 years: New England, KC, Pittsburgh, NO, PHL.

Best Bets

NFL Week 1: Chiefs at Jaguars

The Kansas City Chiefs, a team that nearly made it to the Super Bowl last season, are available at a bargain price against the mediocre Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday afternoon. They're poised to cover their eighth straight September contest.

Jacksonville's defensive depth behind tackle Calais Campbell and corner back Jalen Ramsey will face a stern test from Kansas City's top-rated offense in 2018. To bet this game now and get a free $50 VISA card and up to $250 in deposit match bonus money, go to **MetroBet.us/Sugar** and enter promo code: **METROBET**

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, who tossed 50 TD passes en route to an MVP campaign, should be able to find his targets on a regular basis in this one.

GETTY IMAGES

The Jaguars' new hope under center, Nick Foles, should find it difficult to keep up with no legitimate No. 1 receivers at his side. The Chiefs' defense is expected to be better than they were in 2018 thanks to the addition of safety Tyrann Mathieu and some strong defensive draft selections, including safety Juan Thornhill.

The play: Chiefs spread

ROBERT CRISCOLA

VSiN DAILY LINE

NFL WEEK 1

WASHINGTON REDSKINS AT PHILADELPHIA EAGLES -9.5

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT CHICAGO BEARS -3

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS -3.5 AT JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

BUFFALO BILLS AT NEW YORK JETS -3

BALTIMORE RAVENS -7 AT MIAMI DOLPHINS

SAN FRAN 49ERS AT TB BUCCANEERS EVEN

PITTSBURGH STEELERS AT NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS -5.5

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Fresh faces aplenty in the mix for 2019 US Open women's title

Parity continues to reign supreme on the women's side of the tennis world.

ADAM ZAGORIA
sports@metro.us

Bianca Andreescu is one of the new faces making a run at the 2019 U.S. Open. GETTY IMAGES

When Bianca Andreescu finally knocked off Taylor Townsend to become the final woman's quarterfinalist at the U.S. Open, it was nearly 1 a.m. ET on Tuesday.

Andreescu, a 19-year-old Canadian, now has 28 hardcourt wins this season — tied for most on the tour. A confident player with the ability to display varying styles of tennis, she has as good a chance to win the title on Saturday as any of the eight women left in the final Grand Slam tournament of the decade.

"It feels awesome," the No. 15 seed said after beating Townsend in three sets to advance to a quarterfinal showdown with No. 26 Elise Mertens. "I've been working and dreaming of this moment for a really long time, so it feels pretty damn good to be in the quarters here."

"I am really happy, but the tournament's not done yet. I think I can do even better than get to the quarters here this year."

Andreescu, who won Indian Wells and Toronto, is into her first Grand Slam quarterfinal and is one of seven women left in the draw who has never been to a major final.

Serena Williams, the No. 8 seed and 23-time major champion, is the only quarterfinalist who has ever been to a major final — or won a Grand Slam title. Williams was set to face China's Qiang Wang, the No. 18 seed, on Tuesday night at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The other quarterfinal on the bottom half of the draw features No. 5 Evina Svitolina of Ukraine — the highest remaining seed in the tournament — against No. 16 Johanna Konta of Britain.

On the top half, No. 13 Belinda Bencic of Switzerland, who knocked off world No. 1 Naomi Osaka on Monday for the third time this year, faces No. 23 Donna Vekic of Croatia. The winner of that match will face the Andreescu/Mertens winner for a spot in the final.

Bencic, 22, is into her first Grand Slam quarterfinal since 2014 after battling a variety of injuries, including having wrist surgery in 2017. She has been mentored by Roger Federer and coached by Melanie Molitor, Martina Hingis' mother and coach.

Bencic is too young to have seen Hingis play in her prime two decades ago, but they play similar styles. Some tennis experts are picking Bencic to break through and win her first Grand Slam title in New York.

"She was even more skilled and smarter on the court and playing more chess," Bencic said of the comparison between her game and Hingis'. "I think I have a little bit less maybe talent and touch than her, but maybe a little bit more power."

At least one first-time Grand Slam finalist is guaranteed to come out of the top half. And if Williams fails to make the final, where she lost to Osaka a year ago in a highly charged and controversial final, there will be two maiden finalists playing for the title.

That is consistent with the recent trend in women's tennis.

While the "Big Three" of Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, and Rafael Nadal has won the last 11 major titles on the men's side, nine different women have won the last 11 majors.

With Osaka's loss here, it is guaranteed that for the third straight year, four different women will split up the major titles. Osaka won the Australian Open, Ash Barty took the French Open and Simona Halep captured Wimbledon.

Serena's last major title came at the Australian Open in 2017. She was the favorite heading into the quarterfinals, but everyone else, including Andreescu, believes they can win the title, too.

"Every tournament I go into, I want to win it," she said.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, July Term 2019, No. 4008.

Notice is hereby given that on July 31, 2019, the petition of Leslie Williams was filed, praying for a decree to change her name to Leslie Williams-Bradford. The court has fixed September 20, 2019 at 11:30AM, in Room No. 691, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, July Term, 2019, No. 4504. Notice is hereby given that on August 14, 2019, the petition of Sophia Kofa Dunn was filed, praying for a decree to change her name to Sophia Kofa Monbo. The Court has fixed date September 27, 2019 at 9:30AM, in Room No. 691, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

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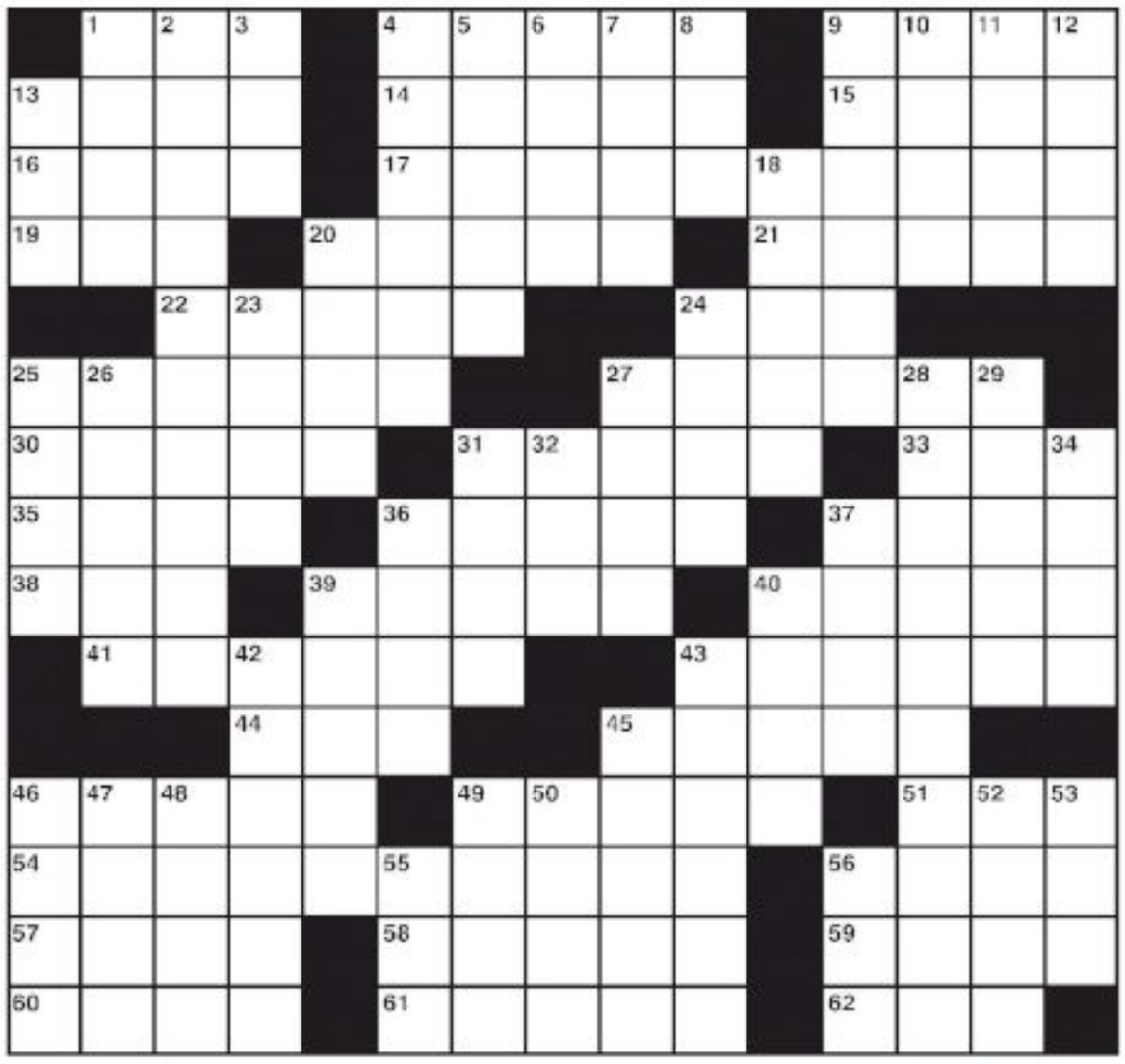

ACROSS
1 Lincoln, for one
4 Family member
9 Female animals
13 __-up; busy at the moment
14 Wear away
15 Pristine
16 Troubles
17 Canadian province
19 Pressure unit
20 Poke along
21 Dethrones
22 Gladden
24 "Who __ seen the wind? Neither you..."
25 Harsh
27 Sahara or Gobi
30 "__ home is his castle"
31 Ermine
33 Turn a deaf __ to; ignore
35 White lies
36 Ability
37 "Wish you were __"; postcard words
38 Perpendicular annex
39 Actor Michael
40 Black-and-white critter
41 Pines (for)
43 One who dies for his beliefs
44 Livid
45 White adhesive
46 Yell
49 Obstacles
51 Lobster's color
54 Agreeing
56 Teller of tall tales
57 Suffix for avail or approach
58 Game of chance
59 "__ in Love with Amy"
60 Gifts for kids
61 Summit
62 "Ick!"

DOWN
1 Feels miserable
2 Credible
3 Marinaro & Begley
4 Serve as a sign of
5 Ascended
6 Symbol of peace
7 WWII turning point
8 Approval
9 Mate
10 Time-__; kids' penalties
11 Court decree
12 Caspian & Black
13 Money for the waiter
18 Seaside
20 One of the planets
23 Camera's eye
24 Recuperate
25 Out of danger
26 Brontë or Post
27 Mete out
28 Going in again
29 Not prompt
31 Does the slalom
32 Cheap metal
34 Fanny
36 Beach stuff
37 Male red deer
39 Wooden box
40 Free ticket
42 Entertains
43 Disgusting insect larva
45 Hunger pains
46 "Take a hike!"
47 Transient
48 "For Your Eyes __"; 007 film
49 Recipe verb
50 Midmorning
52 Per unit
53 Rap's Dr. __
55 "Jeopardy!" network
56 __ Diamond Phillips

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B	D	S	U	R	V	I	V	O	R
A	C	L	E	M	O	N	A	D	E
B	V	R	I	N	G	O	N	I	T
Y	T	I	A	H	P	Y	Q	A	W
B	H	G	D	Z	C	S	N	Z	E
O	M	M	Y	H	Y	N	K	R	L
Y	F	A	T	L	A	S	T	V	G
O	J	E	I	H	Q	L	P	G	N
F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N	I
N	X	D	E	S	T	I	N	Y	S

At Last
Baby Boy
Child
Crazy
Destiny's
Diva
Dreamgirls
Formation
Halo
I Am
Jay-Z
Lemonade
Ring on It
Single
Survivor

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Y	T	T	C
T	N	E	H
W	O	W	T

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	7		2		8	1		6
1					6		5	7
		2		5				
				7			1	4
		1	6	4	2	5		
7	5			8				
				2		3		
2	6		8					5
3		8	5		7		2	

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I	L	L	S	■	B	A	L	L	E	R	I	N	A	S	
B	Y	A	■	P	O	K	E	■	■	O	P	E	N	S	
■	■	H	E	I	R	S	■	■	R	U	E	■	■	■	
C	H	O	S	E	N	■	■	P	U	T	S	U	P	■	
R	O	M	P	S	■	G	R	A	B	S	■	N	E	W	
A	W	A	Y	■	R	A	I	D	S	■	D	A	T	A	
B	I	N	■	M	A	I	D	S	■	S	A	F	E	R	
■	E	S	C	O	R	T	■	■	B	E	L	F	R	Y	
■	■	■	H	U	E	■	■	T	O	E	Y	E	■	■	
A	S	N	E	R	■	■	H	A	W	K	■	C	B	S	
J	O	U	R	N	A	L	I	S	M	■	S	T	O	P	
A	L	L	Y	■	L	A	T	T	E	■	H	E	R	R	
R	O	L	L	■	E	B	S	E	N	■	E	D	G	Y	

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